

**INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS
AND NORTHERN
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
IN ECUADOR – PARTNERSHIP?**

**Master of Arts
University of Technology Sydney**

Jacqueline Louise CARRIER

2009

Statement of Originality

I certify that the work presented in this thesis is original, and has not previously been submitted for a degree, nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree.

I also certify that any help I have received in the preparation of the thesis, together with all information sources used, have been acknowledged within the thesis.

Jacqueline Louise Carrier

Acknowledgements

After ten years work as a development practitioner in a variety of contexts, this thesis is an attempt to further explore those questions to which I found no easy answers in my daily work. I would like to thank the following people who have either influenced or supported me in this seeking of answers.

In conducting the literature review for this thesis I found several extremely helpful texts, which have helped me to frame my perspective. In terms of international development I have been particularly influenced by Arturo Escobar and Alan Fowler. In regard to Indigenous development I have found Stephen Cornell, Francesca Merlan and David Martin's writings to be very useful.

Noel and Gerhardt Pearson have also influenced this research. While working for them in Cape York, and being part of their way of doing development with communities, I was stimulated to want to explore how things work in other contexts, and whether there are other ways of 'doing development' with Indigenous people.

My thinking has also been shaped by my work with Oxfam Australia (both in terms of good practice and what not to do!), and I learnt a lot from Chris Roche and Tony Kelly.

For the case study in Ecuador I would particularly like to thank Mario Melo, who was also grappling with ways that development practitioners' can effectively support Indigenous organisations, and took part in numerous stimulating exchanges. Mario also used his personal contacts to organise interviews for me with many, often inaccessible, Indigenous leaders in Ecuador and I thank him for that.

I am also grateful to Dr Martin Scurrah, former Regional Director of Oxfam America, who organised the initial contact with CDES, and provided interesting contributions to my research.

I am particularly indebted to the Ecuadorian Indigenous leaders, specifically Hilda Santi and Efren Calapucha, who, together with the representatives of NNGOs in Ecuador, gave generously their time and expertise, responding to questions in a thoughtful and open manner.

My supervisor, Dr Heather Goodall, provided a wide range of support, which featured a great amount of unfailing encouragement and stimulating feedback, and for this I am very appreciative.

Pascal Rigaldies gave me the time and space, and encouragement, to complete this research. In addition to washing a lot of dishes, Pascal also provided me with a critical and grounded sounding board throughout my various meanderings in and out of a range of topics. Thank you.

Table of Contents

Statement of Originality	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents.....	v
List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Actors	viii
Glossary	xii
List of Interviews.....	xiv
Abstract	xvi
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Research Topic	1
Reason for selecting Ecuador as case study.....	3
Outline of thesis topic	5
Outline of methodology and how case study research was undertaken	6
Chapter 2: Concepts.....	12
International Development.....	12
Capacity Building.....	14
Indigeneity, Indigenous Development, External actors and Intermediary Organisations	17
Partnership	28
Chapter 3: Ecuador - the Indigenous movement and Northern NGOs	40
Indigenous peoples in Ecuador	42
History of Indigenous movement in Ecuador	44
Why the Indigenous movement emerged and grew in Ecuador	50
Nature and approach of indigenous movement in Ecuador.....	51
Relations with government	53
International links and the role of external agents	54
Achievements.....	55

Current issues for the Indigenous movement	57
Northern NGOs	63
Northern NGOs' Goals and Approaches	65
Indigenous Organisations.....	74
Findings.....	82
Chapter 4: CDES - Centro de Derechos Economicos y Culturales	84
CDES: role and objectives.....	84
History of CDES	87
Programs and Tools	88
Amazon Area Program.....	89
Amazon School	94
Planning	106
Internal structure and management.....	107
Technical Capacity	108
Donor Relationships	109
Relations with Indigenous Organisations.....	113
Learning, Change and Self-analysis.....	120
Record Keeping and Organisational Memory.....	121
Achievements and Setbacks	122
Conclusion.....	125
Chapter 5: Conclusions.....	126
Goals of the study	126
International development	127
Capacity Building.....	129
Indigenous development and external agents	131
Intermediary organisations	135
Partnership	136
Bibliography.....	143

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Map of Ecuadorian provinces	40
Figure 2: Indigenous peoples of Ecuador	42
Figure 3: Sarayacu territory in Ecuador	75

List of Abbreviations, Acronyms and Actors

Amazon Defence Front	A federation of Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples based in the Northern Amazon, formed to fight the petrol company Texaco.
ARCO	North American petrol company which attempted to undertake exploration and extraction of petrol in the Southern Amazon in the late 1990s.
Block 24 Front	A grouping of Indigenous organisations in the Southern Amazon, formed to fight the Texan oil company Burlington
Burlington	North American oil company which undertook exploration for oil in the Southern Amazon from 2000-2002
CESR	Centre for Economic and Social Rights – North American organisation, founder of CDES
CDES	Centro De Derechos Economicos y Sociales – Ecuadorian Intermediary Organisation
CGC	Argentine petrol company which attempted to undertake exploration and extraction of petrol in 2002 in the central Amazon without the consent of the traditional owners, the Sarayacu
CICC	The Indigenous Head Office for Communities of Conception – A Bolivian provincial level Indigenous organisation which covers 45 communities, and has sent staff to the Amazon School

CONAIE	The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador. The national representative Indigenous organisation of Ecuador, CONAIE was formed via the creation of an alliance between ECUARUNARI and CONFENAIE in 1986. CONAIE features leaders elected tri-annually from regional and grassroots Indigenous organisations.
CONFENAIE	The Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon. CONFENAIE was created in 1980, and united all Indigenous Amazonian peoples.
Earth Rights International	North American NGO, which works with CDES to deliver the Amazon School, developed from its Burma School.
ECUARUNARI	Ecuador Runacunapac Riccharimui. Formed in 1972, ECUARUNARI represents Indigenous peoples of the Sierra region, thus uniting several federations of the highlands.
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FEINE	National Evangelical group of Indigenous peoples
FENAP	Federation of Peruvian Achuar People – unites three organisations that represent around 10,000 Achuar.
FENOCIN	National campesino organisation – a non-Indigenous body
FICSHA	Federation of Shuar Centres - Formed in 1965-6 in the South and Central Amazon, FICSHA is one of the earliest indigenous organisations created in Ecuador.

FINAE	The Interprovincial Federation of the Achuar Nationality - Regional representative organisation of the Achuar people of the Southern and Central Amazon. Note that FINAE changed their name to NAE, The Achuar Nationality of Ecuador, in late 2005
FIPSE	Independent Federation of the Shuar People of Ecuador
FOIN	Federation of Indigenous Organisations of Napo – a provincial level federation that was created in the late 1960s
Ford Foundation	North American Foundation, the primary donor for the Amazon School
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
IBIS	A Dutch NGO with operational programs globally
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NNGO	Northern Non-Governmental Organisation
NPA	Norwegian Peoples' Aid, a Norwegian NGO with global programs

OPIAC	The Organisation of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon – Active in defending collective rights in Colombia, OPIAC has sent 10 students to the Amazon School
OPIP	Organisation of Indigenous Peoples of Pastaza – based in Pastaza province in the Central Amazon
ORAU	The AIDESEP Regional Organisation of Ucayali – A Peruvian regional organisation which represents 14 communities and 12 federations, and is a member of AIDESEP, the Peruvian National Indigenous Federation. ORAU has sent students to the Amazon School
Pachakutik	National Indigenous political party, formed in 1996, with strong links to CONAIE
Pachamama	A North American NGO with programs only in Ecuador
Sarayacu	Indigenous community based in the Central Amazon
SNGO	Southern Non-Governmental Organisation
Texaco	North American oil company, which in the process of extracting petrol from the Northern Amazon, dumped billions of gallons of toxic waste in the area over a twenty year period.

Glossary

Campesino	A Latin American farmer or farm labourer. In Ecuador the term is generally applied to poor and non-indigenous people.
Capacity building	“An endogenous course of action that builds on existing capacities and assets, and the ability of people, institutions and societies to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives” (Lopes and Thiesohn, 2004).
Cosmovision	“The way a certain population perceives the cosmos or world. It includes assumed relationships between the human world, the natural world and the spiritual world. It describes the perceived role of supernatural powers, the relationship between humans and nature, and the way natural processes take place. It embodies the premises on which people organize themselves, and determines the moral and scientific basis for intervention in nature” (Haverkort et al, 2003).
Endogenous development	Development based predominantly on local knowledge and resources, which may also integrate traditional and external knowledge and practices. (Haverkoort et al, 2003)
Indigenous	While various definitions exist, Jose Martinez Cobo, United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, provided this working definition: “indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct

from other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal system.”

Intermediary organisation	“National or regional NGOs that are generally staffed by professionals, provide funding or technical assistance to a range of grassroots organisations, and help communities other than their own to develop” (Fisher, 1993).
Intercultural	“Occurring between two or more cultures, involving two or more cultures” (Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 2007).
Mestizo	Literally ‘mixed-blood’, in Ecuador this term is used to refer to peoples who are part latino and part indigenous.
Organisational development	“A planned, systematic and participatory process of change intended to increase organisational effectiveness and develop a continuing capacity for learning” (INTRAC, 1999).
Partnership	“Joint commitment to long term interaction, shared responsibility for achievement, reciprocal obligation, equality, mutuality and balance of power” (Fowler, 2000).
Plurinational	Within the Indigenous movement in Ecuador, this is used to describe one nation legally acknowledging the existence of other nationalities or peoples within its territories, and according specific rights to those peoples.

List of Interviews

During the research conducted in Ecuador in July 2005, several interviews were conducted. All interviews were conducted using a semi-structured format, with a number of open questions to commence, which led to unstructured discussions. All interviews except two (which were conducted in English) were conducted in Spanish, and detailed notes in Spanish and English were taken. These notes remain in possession of the author of the research.

In Quito interviews were conducted with:

Mario Melo	Coordinator of Amazon Area Program and Lawyer for CDES
Celestino Wichum	Director of Amazon School project within CDES
Joanna Levitt	Fulbright Scholar working with CDES
Hilda Santi	President of the Tayjasaruta, the Sarayacu representative organisation
Efren Kalapucha	Director of Territories and Natural Resources, CONAIE
Natalia Wray	Regional Director of Norwegian Peoples' Aid
Arturo Cevallos	Country Director of IBIS, a Dutch NGO
Belen	Country Director of Pachamama, an American NGO
Ruth Arias	Ecuadorian woman who works frequently with Indigenous organisations

In Puyo, in the Central Amazon, interviews were conducted with:

Ruben Samarin Director of Lands and Territories, FINAE

Jorge Canolos Director of Health, FINAE

Jose Gualinga Director of International Relations of the Tayjasaruta, the
Sarayacu representative organisation

Mario Grefa President of OPIP

In Guatemala in September 2005, discussions were conducted with Martin Scurrah, who was at that time the Latin America Director of Oxfam America.

Abstract

This research explores the question 'In a country where the Indigenous movement has been relatively successful, what were the interactions between international non-governmental organisations and Indigenous organisations?' Sub questions include 'What role did partnership play in these relationships?', 'How was capacity building done?' and 'What role did intermediary organisations play?'

Having worked internationally in NGO settings involving Indigenous people, in Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and Australia, I was aware that approaches such as partnership and capacity building are promoted but appear to be difficult to put into practice. I felt that it would be useful to look at the relationship between Indigenous organisations and International NGOs in a context where the Indigenous movement is considered to be relatively successful. I hoped that by exploring a context other than Australia I could identify relevant challenges, alternate ways of working, and whether there are any implications that are relevant to Australia.

The case study selected for analysis is that of the Indigenous movement of Ecuador, and its relationship with those International non-governmental organisations that support it, together with the role played by one of its strongest supporters, the intermediary Ecuadorian organisation the Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CDES). The research will explore the nature of the Indigenous movement, and the International NGOs that support the Indigenous movement, together with the relationships that exist between them.